

NATIONAL GEOSPATIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
December 3, 2012
Minutes

The National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC) held a public meeting from 2:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on December 3, 2012. The meeting was via webinar and teleconference. In accordance with the requirements of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, the meeting was open to the public.

NGAC Members present:

David Cowen (Chair)
Jerry Johnston (Vice-Chair)
Robert Austin
Jack Dangermond
David DiSera
Joanne Gabrynowicz
Bert Granberg
Kass Green
Randy Johnson
James Kwolek
E. Donald McKay
Anne Hale Miglarese
Kimberly Nelson
Timothy Nyerges
Patrick Olson
Mark Reichardt
Cynthia Salas
Eugene Schiller
Gary Thompson
Gene Trobia
Molly Vogt

NGAC Members not present:

Richard Clark
Xavier Lopez
Matthew O'Connell
Jack Pellicci
Anthony Spicci
David Wyatt

Anne Castle, Chair of the Federal Geographic Data Committee, Ivan DeLoatch, Executive Director of the Federal Geographic Data Committee and Designated Federal Officer (DFO) for the NGAC, and John Mahoney, Alternate DFO, were also in attendance.

Other Attendees:

Jim Bjostad (NGA), Wendy Blake-Coleman (EPA), Pat Cummins (ESRI), Erin Engle (Library of Congress), Douglas Geverdt (Census Bureau), Tricia Gibbons (Lead Alliance), Charley Hickman (USGS), Dennis Klein (Boundary Solutions), Kaelin Kuhn (GAO), Roxanne Lamb (FGDC), Tony LaVoi (NOAA), Butch Lazorchak

(Library of Congress), Arista Maher (FGDC), Roger Mitchell (MDA), Ken Shaffer (FGDC), Laurence Socci (The CLA Group, LLC), Jon Sperling (HUD), Tim Trainor (Census Bureau).

Call to Order and Welcome

Dr. David Cowen (NGAC Chair) called the public meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. and welcomed the NGAC members and audience to the meeting. Dr. Cowen provided an overview of the purpose and objectives of the meeting. He also provided an overview of the logistics and protocols for the webinar and teleconference.

Review and Adoption of September 2012 Meeting Minutes

Dr. Cowen reviewed the draft minutes of the September 18-19, 2012 NGAC meeting and called for approval.

DECISION: The NGAC adopted the minutes of the September 18-19, 2012 meeting.

Leadership Dialogue

FGDC Chair Anne Castle (DOI) provided remarks on FGDC and Administration activities and priorities, and provided updates on several topics. Ms. Castle thanked the NGAC for their thorough job in addressing the 2012 FGDC guidance to the committee. She noted that the NGAC had developed a number of very helpful and timely products and feedback, including:

- Two papers on the Landsat program
- Innovative Strategies Paper
- Draft papers on a National Address Database and a National Geospatial Strategy
- Feedback and comments on the Geospatial Platform Business Plan, the revised A-16 data themes and datasets, the 3D Elevation Program, and the National Hydrography Dataset.

Ms. Castle also discussed the recent report by the Government Accountability Office (GAO), “OMB and Agencies Need to Make Coordination a Priority to Reduce Duplication” (GAO-13-94), which was released in November 2012. She made several points about the report. First, she indicated that Interior and FGDC welcomed the GAO review and appreciated the recommendations for improvement. She also indicated that the FGDC generally agreed with the recommendations in the report. However, she also noted that FGDC and Interior believed that some of the statements and conclusions in the report were not well supported. Ms. Castle pointed out that significant efforts were underway to address many of the issues in the report, and that the FGDC community is committed to eliminating any unnecessary duplication. She indicated that FGDC looked forward to engaging with the NGAC in responding to the recommendations in the report, and that FGDC will ask the NGAC for advice on specific aspects of the report in the 2013 guidance to the committee.

Ms. Castle noted that the FGDC has made progress on several issues since the last NGAC meeting in September. For example, the Geospatial Platform business plan was approved by the FGDC Steering Committee. She noted that the Geospatial Platform team was working on a set of revisions to the Platform that would be discussed later in the meeting. She also indicated that FGDC was continuing to refine the OMB Circular A-16 data themes and datasets, and she provided a brief update on the activities of the Alaska Mapping Executive Committee.

Ms. Castle also provided observations on the papers being considered by the NGAC. She thanked the chairs and members of the subcommittees for their work in developing the papers, and she noted that the papers provided helpful feedback and recommendations. On the Geospatial Strategies paper, she indicated that the paper includes a very helpful and logical set of recommendations, and she noted that the recommendations were very consistent with the recommendations in the GAO report. She said that the paper reinforces many of the themes FGDC had discussed with the GAO, and that she appreciated the NGAC's action on this issue.

On the National Address Database paper, she thanked the co-chairs of the committee, Gene Trobia and Bob Austin, and she also thanked Tim Trainor from the Census Bureau, who worked closely with the subcommittee as they have developed the paper. She indicated that this was a good model for how the NGAC should operate – the more that FGDC agencies can collaborate and communicate with the NGAC, the more informed the committee will be. Ms. Castle indicated that the FGDC looked forward to receiving the final report and will look to Mr. Trainor and his colleagues to take the lead in helping the FGDC formulate a response.

In closing, Ms. Castle noted that this was the last meeting for several members of the NGAC. She thanked the members for their service on the committee. Ms. Castle then engaged in a brief dialogue with the NGAC members.

Geospatial Priorities Paper

Bob Austin provided an overview of the draft NGAC Geospatial Priorities paper. At the September 2012 NGAC meeting, the committee agreed to develop a brief paper identifying a small set of geospatial priorities for consideration during the upcoming Presidential term. Bob Austin and Dave Cowen led the effort to develop the paper, with input from many NGAC members. The paper was patterned in part on the NGAC "Transition Recommendations" paper adopted in October 2008. The draft paper identified several key recommendations, including the following:

- Develop and Implement a National Geospatial Policy
- Fully Implement the Geospatial Platform and Geospatial Portfolio Management
- Implement Coordinated Multi-Agency, Intergovernmental Geospatial Data Initiatives

Dr. Austin noted that several of these focus areas were consistent with the issues identified in the recent GAO geospatial report. The NGAC members discussed the paper and made suggestions for minor changes, including the following:

- Reference to workforce development and STEM education
- Reference to the NGAC "Changing Geospatial Landscape" paper
- Reference to a national education and outreach program
- Adding links to documents referenced in the paper
- Other minor editorial suggestions

Following the discussion, the NGAC adopted the paper with the additional changes as discussed.

DECISION: The NGAC adopted the NGAC Geospatial Priorities Paper with minor editorial changes.

FGDC/DOI Update

Ivan DeLoatch and Jerry Johnston provided a report on recent FGDC and DOI activities. Highlights included the following:

- FGDC is evaluating the final GAO report and formulating agency responses. FGDC expects to ask for NGAC assistance in responding to the GAO recommendations.
- FGDC is initiating the development of a new strategic plan for the NSDI.
- FGDC is continuing the development of the implementation plan for the A-16 Supplemental Guidance.
- FGDC recently hired a new support contractor for Geospatial Platform development. The development is being done in close collaboration with DOI and other agencies.
- The Geospatial Platform team is working on development of Geospatial Platform “version 2.0” and will look to NGAC to provide feedback on enhancements.
- DOI and FGDC are collaborating with OMB on Administration priorities (Data.gov, Open Data initiative, etc.).
- DOI is finalizing the next set of appointments for new NGAC members – expect announcement in late 2012 or early 2013.

ACTION: DOI and FGDC are reviewing the recent GAO report on Federal geospatial programs and will seek the NGAC’s advice on specific aspects of the report through the 2013 guidance to the NGAC.

ACTION: The next set of appointments to the NGAC is expected to be completed by the end of December 2012.

NGAC Subcommittee Summary Papers

Dave Cowen called for approval of papers summarizing the 2012 activities of three NGAC subcommittees (A-16, Elevation, and National Hydrography Dataset). Brief summaries of the 3 papers were provided.

A-16 Subcommittee

The A-16 Subcommittee, which was chaired by Kim Nelson, provided feedback on the revised OMB Circular A-16 data themes and datasets developed by the FGDC. During 2012 the subcommittee reviewed the A-16-related documents provided by the FGDC and conducted several meetings with agency subject matter experts to discuss and provide feedback. A report on the subcommittee’s feedback was provided at the September 2012 NGAC meeting. The A-16 summary paper provides a description of the feedback provided by the subcommittee.

Elevation Subcommittee

The Elevation Subcommittee, which was chaired by Gary Thompson, provided responses to a set of questions identified by agency program staff. The subcommittee held a series of meetings with USGS and other agency staff to discuss the study questions. The subcommittee briefed the NGAC on these questions and responses at the September 2012 NGAC meeting. The summary paper provides a description of the responses developed by the subcommittee.

National Hydrography Dataset (NHD) Subcommittee

The NHD Subcommittee, which was chaired by Mark Reichardt, provided responses to a set of questions identified by the USGS and EPA NHD program staff. The subcommittee also provided feedback and comment on a draft survey of NHD stakeholders. The subcommittee briefed the NGAC on these activities at the September 2012 NGAC meeting. The summary paper provides a description of the feedback provided by the subcommittee.

Following brief discussion, the NGAC approved the three summary papers.

DECISION: The NGAC adopted the NGAC A-16 Subcommittee Summary Paper

DECISION: The NGAC adopted the NGAC Elevation Subcommittee Summary Paper

DECISION: The NGAC adopted the NGAC National Hydrography Dataset Subcommittee Summary Paper

National Address Database Paper

Gene Trobia and Bob Austin led a discussion of the NGAC National Address Database paper. Mr. Trobia provided background on the development of the paper, including a description of the guidance provided by the FGDC. The guidance asked the NGAC to develop a white paper addressing:

- The need for a National Address Database and the benefits and potential savings and efficiencies that will be realized
- Potential concerns about a National Address Database, including privacy issues
- Possible approaches for development of a National Address Database, including the roles of federal, state, local, and tribal governments, commercial partners, and other stakeholders

The subcommittee held a series of meeting with Federal subject matter experts to review these issues and develop responses. The subcommittee worked closely with Tim Trainor of the Census Bureau in developing the draft paper. The paper assesses the need for a National Address Database, identifies several potential concerns, and identifies potential options for development, including the following:

- Option 1: Single Steward
- Option 2: Multiple Stewards
- Option 3: Modify Existing Processes
- Option 4: Leverage Existing Programs
- Option 5: State-based Integration and Coordination
- Hybrid: Combine Options

The paper also includes several conclusions, including the following:

- Recommend creation of a National Address Database (with contributions from and access by all sectors of the economy)
- Recommend aggregation and integration of local address data
- Recommend formal benefit-cost analysis to identify best development option

Mr. Trobia noted that the subcommittee had briefed the NGAC on the draft paper at the September NGAC meeting and asked for member comment. Following a discussion of the revised paper, the NGAC adopted the paper with minor revisions.

DECISION: The NGAC adopted the NGAC National Address Database Paper with minor editorial changes.

Public Comment Period

Public attendees of the meeting were provided an opportunity to present comments to the NGAC. The following comments were provided:

Butch Lazorchak, Library of Congress

Mr. Lazorchak provided an update on the recent activities of the National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program (NDIIPP).

Dennis Klein, Boundary Solutions

Mr. Klein discussed the status of Boundary Solutions' partnership with the University of California, Berkeley on open records. Mr. Klein indicated that industry conditions have changed since the inception of this partnership and the effort is being refocused. He indicated that he will keep the NGAC apprised of the status of this initiative. Mr. Klein also referenced the recent NSGIC data sharing guidelines.

NGAC Discussion – Issues Facing the Geospatial Community

Dave Cowen and Ivan DeLoatch led a brainstorming discussion on current and emerging issues facing the geospatial community. The purpose of the session was to seek NGAC input to identify potential issues to be incorporated into the 2013 FGDC guidance to the NGAC. Questions include: what are the most critical issues or challenges facing the geospatial community in the next 3 years? What might be some of the key roles of the federal government in helping address those challenges or issues? Key geospatial issues identified by NGAC members included the following:

- GAO Report
 - Advice & feedback in response to recommendations
 - Take advantage of the opportunity to collaboratively develop a new vision
 - Input into the strategic planning process
 - Data duplication concerns
- Privacy Issues and Impacts
 - Broader perspective than just addresses
 - Expectations and current practices
 - Impacts on the federal community as well as the geospatial community in general
 - Keeping the NGAC updated.
 - Spatial law and policy
 - FTC's ongoing rule making
 - Current bills pending in Congress related to image collection by drones - only the start.
- Geospatial Platform
 - Showing measurable results; looking at metrics and performance
 - Interagency sharing of data and metrics

- Technical advice when needed.
 - Inventory prospective enterprise-wide geospatial web services
- National Geospatial Services
 - Develop a list of recommended services that could be hosted using the federal government infrastructure
 - Opportunities for the maintenance of our national datasets and A-16 layers using web browser technologies.
- Education and Workforce Development
 - Geospatial sciences and geography connections with STEM and other administration's education, training, and workforce development initiatives
 - Status of STEM and related education issues
- Geospatial Awareness
 - Promoting maps and use of maps to kids
 - Need active spokespersons
 - Highlight creative, novel, compelling apps
- National Address Database
 - Continue the foundational work of the NGAC subcommittee
 - Privacy as it relates to addresses
 - Many issues to explore within the context
 - Lead agency recommendations
- Real-time GIS
 - Impacts on the industry and the way we do business
 - Emerging issues
 - Look at and learn from current apps in use
 - The role of crowd sourcing and volunteered geographic information (e.g., OpenStreetMap)
- Update on Mapping Technology & Emerging Services
 - What the private sector is doing to improve life through geospatial technology
 - Role of the federal, state, and local government
 - New applications for the technology and data
 - The role of non-federal partners
 - GIS in the Cloud – SaaS, IaaS, PaaS
- New Applications using Government Data
 - Build an awareness of the new applications being developed using publically available data
 - Highlight novel use of government data.
 - Find ways to focus on compelling, novel, and creative applications.

- Revised OMB Circular A-16 data themes
 - Identify the most pressing needs and opportunities relating to A-16 themes from a 'use case' perspective
 - Identify barriers that need to be addressed to meet these needs/opportunities and a suggested time frame.
 - Consider the 2nd and 3rd items from the 2012 NGAC guidance around A-16 Strategy for building national geospatial resources (data layers and data services):
 - How can State, local, and tribal governments, as well as other stakeholders, contribute most effectively to implement the development of the revised data themes and associated datasets?
 - How can stakeholders and communities of interest contribute to the development of sustainable models for data theme and dataset development and maintenance?"

Mr. DeLoatch asked that members provide any additional suggestions to the FGDC staff following the meeting.

ACTION: NGAC members should send any additional ideas and suggestions for the 2013 FGDC guidance to the NGAC to John Mahoney and Tricia Gibbons by Monday, December 10, 2012.

Meeting Summary/Wrap-Up

The results and actions from the meeting were briefly summarized. The next NGAC meeting is planned for early April, 2013 in Washington, DC. The primary agenda topic will be the FGDC guidance to the NGAC for 2013. The FGDC staff also asked NGAC members to provide feedback on the webinar format for the meeting and suggestions for improvement.

Adjourn

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

Certification

I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the foregoing minutes are accurate and complete.

David Cowen, Chair, National Geospatial Advisory Committee

Ivan DeLoatch, Designated Federal Officer, National Geospatial Advisory Committee

These minutes will be formally considered by the Committee at its next meeting, and any corrections or notations will be incorporated in the minutes of that meeting.

Note – These minutes were approved by the NGAC on April 3, 2013

December 2012 NGAC Meeting Summary of Presentations and Handouts

The following is a list of the presentations and handouts from the meeting. These meeting materials are posted along with the minutes at: http://www.fgdc.gov/ngac/meetings/december-2012/index_html

Geospatial Strategy Paper

- Geospatial Strategy Paper Presentation
- NGAC Geospatial Strategy Paper

NGAC Subcommittee Summary Reports

- A-16 Subcommittee Report
- Elevation Subcommittee Report
- National Hydrography Dataset Subcommittee Report

National Address Database Paper

- National Address Database Paper Presentation
- NGAC National Address Database Paper

NGAC Guidance

- NGAC Guidance Discussion